

28 JUN 1968

The Honorable Charles E. Bennett  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This is in response to your letter of 26 June 1968 inquiring about a series of allegations contained in the 15 May edition of The Washington Observer Newsletter. As you may know, essentially the same allegations were made in a column by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson in the Washington Post of 7 April 1967 and were thoroughly investigated by the Agency at that time.

I can assure you that at no time have CIA funds of any kind been provided to any recipient for any purpose directly or indirectly related to voter registration, the civil rights movement or any other domestic political objective. Furthermore, at no time has any evidence come to our attention suggesting that any funds provided by the Agency to any recipient have been applied by such recipient directly or indirectly for any of the above objectives.

As you know, we generally make it a practice not to respond to press allegations of this sort. However, I welcome this opportunity to set the record straight so far as you and your colleagues on the Hill are concerned.

Please feel free to pass my above assurances to Representative Fuqua, or to any other members of the Congress who may raise the matter with you. If you desire further information on this subject please call on me.

Sincerely,

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SIGNED

Richard Helms  
Director

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MEMBER  
3d DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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MEMBER, CIA SUBCOMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 26, 1968

The Honorable Richard Helms  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

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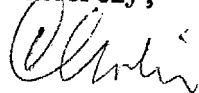
Dear Mr. Helms:

I enclose a clipping which came  
to me from Congressman Don Fuqua. I do not  
know who published this but I presume that  
you do.

If it is true that the CIA is financing  
these objectives or has financed them, then I  
think that there needs to be an explanation,  
at the very least, and without any further  
information it seems to me that a serious error  
has been committed. I would appreciate it very  
much if I could be informed fully on this subject.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Charles E. Bennett

CEB:sl

laws. Pearson freely violates the criminal provisions of the national security laws, conducts an illicit traffic in stolen documents, commits perjury, larceny and bribery, and other depredations with the apparent sanctity of the Federal courts. It will be interesting to see if the New York Supreme Court issues the injunction against Pearson.

## CIA SUBVERSION

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is currently allocating unvouchered funds to organize Negro voter registration drives in the South and to finance Negro militants on Southern campuses. Also, the CIA is paying lawyers to defend arrested Negro militants. Furthermore, the CIA also bankrolls CORE, a vicious Black racist group.

This disclosure may come as a surprise to the public, but not to the Congressional CIA Watchdog Committee, chaired by Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga). Among the members of the CIA committee are Senators John Stennis (D-Miss), Sam Ervin (D-NC) and Strom Thurmond (R-SC). The elite members of this panel are the only Members of Congress privileged to know how much Congress annually appropriates for the CIA. In the President's budget submitted to Congress, funds for the CIA are hidden items in the budget's of other Federal agencies—largely in the Defense Department enormous budget. The CIA reportedly spends over \$1 billion a year. The CIA is the only Federal agency exempted from audit by the General Accounting Office. There is a small CIA unit in the U.S. Budget Bureau that is supposed to know about the allocation of CIA funds. The operations of the CIA are limited by law to activities abroad and it is strictly forbidden from engaging in any activities within the U.S. But this legal proviso is flagrantly violated with the knowledge and tacit consent of the legislative "Watchdog" committee.

The stalwart Southern "Watchdogs" knew that CIA monies were used to finance Negro voter registrations in the 1962, 1964 and 1966 political campaigns but have taken no action to stop it or even expose it. And the Republican Members of Congress have been obediently silent.

The CIA funds have been funneled via the CIA's tax-free dummy foundations to the Black Power groups. The main conduit of CIA cash funds to help the Negro voter registration drive is the Southern Regional Council, which received \$60,000 of CIA funds in 1963. Their money was conveyed through the New World Foundation. In 1962 \$6000 of CIA money went to the Southern Regional Council through the Aaron E. Norman Fund. In 1962 the Georgia Council on Human Relations also got \$400 of CIA money from the Norman Fund.

The National Student Association, which received massive contributions of CIA money, was also encouraged by the CIA to push a similar program in the South.

The Aaron E. Norman Fund has also contributed to CORE's scholarship and educational fund, the Lawyer's Constitutional Defense Committee, and the League for Industrial Democracy, all vigorous civil rights advocates. Other beneficiaries of CIA funds include the Independence Foundation and the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs of N.Y.

President Johnson can invoke Executive Privilege in exempting CIA officials from answering questions before Congressional committees. It is doubtful if recipients of CIA funds can hide behind Executive privilege, but they might possibly invoke the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution on the grounds of "self-incrimination."

There is, however, one private citizen, who has first-hand knowledge about CIA funds used in Negro voting registration drives and subsidizing militant Negro groups—namely Drew Pearson, columnist commentator. He has no immunity from testifying.

Dispite the fact that Pearson is a vociferous critic of Senators Russell, Ervin, Stennis, Eastland, Thurmond and the entire Southern Congressional leadership, WO ventures to predict that Pearson will never be called to tell what he knows about the CIA before the Congressional CIA Watchdog or any other committee of the Congress.

WHY? Pearson would be in an angry mood if summoned to testify and would defy Congress by refusing to reveal his confidential CIA sources of information. Pearson knows they would not dare cite him for contempt of Congress. Congressional probers know that Pearson would like to have them cite him for contempt of Congress so that he could get a ruling before his friends on the U.S. Supreme Court. And Congressional legal staffs privately say that the Supreme Court would welcome the opportunity. Moreover, Congressional Committees are afraid to test their right to restrain a witness before a closed-door executive session from telling what happened in the meeting.

But aside from these legal technicalities, no committee of Congress is anxious to probe the conspiratorial nature of the Black Power movement and its relationship to international Communism.

## EXPENSIVE UNIVERSITY

The Free University of Berlin, which has been in the news recently, is—fortunately—not typical of German universities.

It was started by "Americans" after the last war, to "re-educate" the dirty anti-communist Germans. This is where the Fulbright scholarships started. No less than 90% of the professors there are "refugees" who hurriedly left the anti-communist atmosphere of pre-war Germany, or "Americans." The Mayor of Berlin recently said that he'd rather have no university than have one that has yet to reach the sewage level of Berkeley.